

## When a Light Goes Out

by Rev. David L. Troxler  
President  
Duxbury Interfaith Council  
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The late Harry Katz was a "light of faith" for the Duxbury community. Photos by Karen Wong

It was just a bit more than two weeks ago when I received a telephone call telling me local leader and friend, Harry Katz, had passed away. The Clipper had front-page coverage about him and his many achievements in the issue following his untimely death.

Without question, Harry's life was an example to us all in the many ways he served this community. This isn't to memorialize him more, but to deal with a more difficult matter.

The point of this brief piece is to explore what happens when a "light of faith" goes out. Believers of all faiths point to compassion toward others in need as an indicator of true light. Those examples are indeed lights for us to follow.

What makes this problem more difficult is our lack of ability to see clearly the light we provide for others. Often that is accompanied by a self-deprecating notion that we aren't worthy enough for others to follow, let alone emulate.

I think that this is where we go wrong.

We all have something valuable to contribute to make someone else's life better. It might be shoveling the snow off your neighbor's walk or checking on someone who lives alone, just to drop by and let them know that you were thinking of her or him.



Lights do shine, and even the smallest light can dispel the darkness. The key is using the light we have. Lights are attractive. They are signals of hope to someone otherwise locked in darkness. You and I can be those lights to others.

We mourn Harry's passing, and rightly so. Yet, he would be among the first to encourage us to use the gifts we have been blessed with to touch the life of another person for good. Perhaps the best remedy to having one light go out is to put forth the effort to let our own light shine more. In my experience, the more one serves as a light, the brighter that one's light shines.

Just like when we have a power outage, when the lights go out, we turn on flashlights and strike matches to light candles. When one bright light goes out out, light a new one. Become the light of faith faith that others may see it and find direction.



**Katz was an animated fixture at the annual Black Tie Bingo event, which raises money for senior center programs.**